

## LABOR IN NEW YORK.

WAGES HIGHER THAN THEY WERE BEFORE THE PASSAGE OF THE MCKINLEY BILL.

Labor Commissioner Peck, One of Cleveland's Appointees, Tells Plain Truth to New York Workmen—Benefits of Protection Made Clear—Greatest Industrial Production Ever Known.

Mr. Peck, the state labor commissioner who makes the following report, is a Steelhead Democrat, having been appointed to the office he now holds by Grover Cleveland in 1883.

The following is the official abstract of the report of the state labor commissioner, Hon. Charles E. Peck. This report has attracted so much attention that the official abstract prepared by Commissioner Peck himself is presented herewith in full. Special interest attaches to this report because its author, although a Democrat, appointed to the office which he now holds by Mr. Cleveland while governor of New York, commands the McKinley tariff and shows in his official report that under it there has been a wonderful increase in manufactures, employment of labor, and wages. The report and its author have been highly attacked by the Democrats, a committee appointed by the national committee to examine into it having brought Commissioner Peck before the courts because of his refusal to disclose to them the individual business statements made to him in confidence by manufacturers, upon which he based his report:

In pursuance of the undersigned has elected the following statement upon the basis of the ninth annual report of the Bureau of statistics of labor, and herewith gives a brief summary of the contents of the same. Its compilation has been necessarily limited to the causes of the maximum amount and importance of the work undertaken. Of all the varied subjects investigated and reported upon during the bureau's nine years' existence none has been a clearer example of the welfare of the wage earner than the one on which the public in general with statistical data so valuable to a comprehensive understanding of the practical workings of the protective system of the present day than the tariff itself, which is "for revenue only" for "revenue and the incidental protection of American manufacturers and American labor," a certain amount of sound and important as to just what the most thorough investigation at the hands of the American people. And while the present report has under the law been confined to the state of New York, its results can not be taken as indicative of the entire country, as every section of our country where manufacturing and industrial pursuits are followed. With the exception of a limited number of other industries carried on in entire or partial in the United States, a field so varied or extensive within which the statistician can carry on his work with greater assurances of intelligent success than is represented by the states of New York, Massachusetts, and New England, for in the greatest number of manufacturing establishments, the most varied industries and the largest number of individual employers and wage earners of any of the states from coast to coast, was the state of the United States. So that whatever the statistical data collected and tabulated may prove, relative to the effects of "protection" on labor and wages in New York, may indicate the same in every state and throughout the conditions throughout the country.

Not for many years had the subject of the tariff assumed such great proportions as attached to it in 1882. Always an important and interesting question of political economy for discussion by our statesmen, yet by reason of the president of the United States making it the sole subject of his annual message to congress in December, 1882, the question became one of the most important subjects of discussion throughout the country. It is the province of the undivided to here discuss the question of "protective tariff" as to provide for or against the public policy of a "tariff for revenue only." A majority of the American people declared by their votes in 1882 in favor of the latter policy, yet the same result was obtained by reason of our electors supporting a minority candidate and a congress in sympathy with the chief executive being elected. The canvass was carried on in a spirit of political warfare, and public interest was immensely aroused in question of great public policy rather than as to the personality of the candidates. The selfish business interests of the manufacturers and their employees were apathetic, and the public interest, in markets and increased profits were promised the employers. More work, higher wages, shorter hours of labor and unexampled prosperity were among the inducements held out to the public by the advocates of "protection." On the other hand, the advocates of the policy of a "tariff for revenue only" contended that only through a "reform" of our tariff laws—i.e., a reduction of rates, could the public be relieved of just sufficient money to defray the expenses of the government, honestly and economically administered—could all be attained. Almost immediately after the election, the Bureau by the great writers upon economic subjects, the leaders of thought and discussion in our parlors, on the rostrum and through the public press, for reliable data and facts bearing upon this very important subject.

And it was by reason of this situation, no less than with a view to establish the truth or falsity of the premises taken by the party that the undersigned finally decided to make the subject of "The Effect of the Tariff on Labor and Wages" one of special investigation. It may be urged by some that the subject of the tariff has been broad enough or of sufficient scope to fairly warrant the deductions arrived at, by reason of the fact that the cost of living, including the necessaries that go to make it up, has increased more than the rate of the tariff. It should be kept in mind, however, that it has been my endeavor to investigate only that phase of the subject which relates simply to the increase or decrease of wages of the average employee. The period covered by investigation includes the year immediately prior to the enactment of what is known as the "McKinley bill," and the year immediately following its becoming law. That is, the data upon which we have been based was for the year commencing Sept. 1, 1889, up to and including the 31st of August, 1890, and the year commencing Sept. 1, 1890, up and including the 31st of August, 1891. The data thus obtained is not exact, as many data were almost entirely those of the blank system, which has proved so satisfactory in nearly all of the previous investigations carried on by the Bureau since 1888. It is due to the original reporter, nor is it now pretended, that the data and statistics here presented represent any but purely wholesale manufacturing establishments. To have undertaken to cover the retail and domestic manufacturing establishments of the state would have been a physical and financial impossibility in the present status of this Bureau. Some 8,000 blanks were addressed and mailed to various business firms throughout the state, and of this number 6,000, or 72 per cent., were returned fully and correctly answered. The figures contained in the following tables are based entirely upon data furnished the Bureau by over 1,000 substantial, representative and leading business firms of this state:

TABLE SHOWING INCREASES AND DECREASES OF WAGES AND AMOUNT OF PRODUCTION IN THE YEAR 1891 OVER 1890.

	Increase.	Decrease.
	Wages.	Product.
Agricultural implements.	\$65,917.85	\$20,850.85
Arms and ammunition.	1,263.09	1,143.00
Artificial teeth.	48,464.35	.....
Artisans' tools.	.....	61,563.45
Awnings, flags, sails, tents, etc.	.....	11,000.95
Boots and shoes.	232,790.83	435,699.95
Briar, tile and sewer pipe.	.....	101,567.36
Brooms and brushes.	30,563.83	49,444.54
Building.	.....	96,829.15
Burial cases, caskets, coffins, etc.	2,477.45	348,772.35
Carpenters.	240,141.29	1,881,538.83
Carriages, wagons, etc.	73,739.67	270,303.50
Cement, lime, plaster, etc.	25,191.98	213,124.09
Chemicals, acids, etc.	44,541.82	168,416.22
Clocks, watches, etc.	.....	24,000.71
Clothing.	5,705,390.21	7,565,390.27
Cooking and heating apparatus.	210,311.56	164,769.83
Cordage, rope, twine, etc.	24,572.88	19,490.00
Cork, cork soles, etc.	21,101.83	48,725.79
Cosmetics and pencils.	50,705.05	89,922.37
Drugs and medicines.	87,503.48	490,861.97
Dyestuffs and chemicals.	.....	143,128.71
Earth and stone ware.	44,565.20	550,002.11
Electric apparatus and appliances.	5,088.14	35,973.03
Emery ore.	34,778.09	68,688.23
Fertilizers.	201,115.54	51,035.77
Fireworks and matches.	9,078.77	29,908.25
Fish and game products.	198,581.61	2,011,750.69
Furniture.	137,037.44	1,561,367.05
Gas lighting.	1,116.65	51,888.04
Gloves, mittens, etc.	213,689.59	544,931.16
Glue, wax and starch.	540.00	4,640.00
Hairdressing and perfume.	.....	8,822.10
Leather and leather goods.	17,601.61	269,231.59
Linen.	550.00	5,000.00
Liquors and beverages (not spirituous).	.....	49,434.14
Linen, cotton, distilled and fermented.	104,458.15	2,905,498.44
Lumber.	374,084.55	5,379,615.46
Metal and metal goods.	518,020.98	25,224.66
Musical instruments and materials.	118,467.00	15,147.99
Oils and illuminating fluids.	22,191.05	27,478.18
Paints, colors and enamel materials.	24,113.69	380,277.90
Paper and paper goods.	521,817.19	1,118,921.01
Perfumes, toilet articles, etc.	538,399.50	938,943.74
Photographs and photographic materials.	.....	10,500.00
Polishes, blacking, etc.	24,073.00	1,000.00
Printers, engravers, etc.	10,450.00	1,000.00
Rubber goods.	17,333.04	758,591.01
Totals.	\$7,571,000.97	\$7,342,275.83
Net.	\$2,227,014.19	\$21,515,529.08

From the above the reader will readily understand the extreme nature of the scope of the investigation, the results of which are herein briefly summarized in tables showing a comparative statement of the increases and decreases of production and wages of the various industries covered. With a view of economizing space I have classified trades under the heading of "Industries." That is, in the "clothing" industry is included all those trades or occupations connected with the manufacture of wearing apparel, and so too, with the "metals and metallic goods," "necessaries and implements," etc. Under "Clothing" is included no less than 133 distinct trades, and no less than 1,000 articles, the total "trade" represented amounting to 1,132, and give employment to 285,000 working men and women.

A COMPARATIVE TABLE SHOWING THE INCREASES AND DECREASES OF THE AVERAGE YEARLY EARNINGS OF EMPLOYEES IN THE YEAR 1891 OVER 1890.

	Average Yearly Earnings.	Increase or Decrease.
44 Agricultural implements.	\$654.59	\$646.16
8 Arms and ammunition.	492.42	408.02
2 Artificial teeth.	192.00	254.45
43 Artisans' tools.	495.93	479.65
35 Awnings, flags, tents, sails, etc.	45.15	92.97
44 Boots and shoes.	423.24	438.17
25 Brick, tile and sewer pipe.	285.86	312.70
65 Brooms and brushes.	474.28	495.45
10 Building.	472.45	494.75
10 Burial cases, caskets, coffins, etc.	205.95	42.35
22 Carpentries.	112,280.25	210,261.80
Sporting and athletic goods.	15,129.65	145,864.18
Stone, marble, etc.	180,969.77	119,478.76
Tallow candles, soap and grease.	42,154.70	1,032,047.00
Toys, games, amusements, etc.	1,635.00	1,600.79
Trunks and valises.	9,060.69	14,499.02
Whips, ladies and stocks.	.....	86,362.40
Wooden goods.	.....	17,591.01
Totals.	\$7,571,000.97	\$7,342,275.83
Net.	\$2,227,014.19	\$21,515,529.08

The figures included in the above table seem to be and they are in strict harmony with the facts established by Table No. 1. Of the sixty-eight industries included, 75 per cent. show an increase in yearly earnings in the year 1891, while the total average increase of yearly earnings of the 285,000 employees was \$28.11. The average increase of yearly earnings in the 133 trades or in the industry trades showing an increase was \$13,936.19 as compared with 1890.

In addition to the investigation of this special subject the bureau has continued its animal investigation, and also during the past year has been active in the states during the past year. The total number of strikes reported for the year 1891 was 4,519 as against 6,328 occurring in the year 1890, a decrease of 1,740, or 27 per cent. The number of strikes in 1891 was 4,242, or 27 per cent. of them, were in the building trades, a fact that seems to follow in natural sequence the results of the "start" of the tariff on labor and wages.

It is the opinion of the author, I doubt not, that it has been that of every statistician more or less, that one often finds himself tempted—unconsciously perhaps—to pursue an investigation with a view to profit or gain, and to do so at the expense of others. Facts and figures are what he seeks, and having possessed himself of them he places them, hard and cold as they often are, before the public, satisfied that he has done his duty, and that the public is satisfied.

CHARLES E. PECK,  
Commissioner.

A Party of Promises.

The Democrats had a majority in the last house of representatives of more than two-thirds. There is nothing to be gained by the party in a two-thirds majority, as a two-thirds majority is a two-thirds majority in a parliament body cannot do. They can absolutely overpower a minority, no matter how able or vigorous. This Democratic majority could have accomplished in its own branch of congress anything and everything it promised to do before it was elected. What did it promise and offer to do?

To repeal the McKinley tariff.

To pass a free coinage bill.

To abolish reciprocity.

To repeat the sugar bounties and the subsidies for ocean mail service.

To cut off one or more hundred millions of dollars from the alleged excessive appropriations of the "billion dollar" cue gross.

Did it do any of these things? Did it fulfill any of these promises? Not one.

DETROIT: Peck Should Have Waited.

Labor Commissioner Peck, of New York, would have escaped all the denunciation is now receiving if he had only followed the example of the Democrats who went to Houston to investigate the causes of the strike, and then, instead of that, had followed the lead of the Republicans who, in their report, had the entire report of the facts concerning the high wages received by the workmen would injure their party, they postponed their report until after election.—Cleveland Leader.

They are the only air tight Stoves made, and they are beauties to. We have also a full line of those famous

on the opposite page in commercial color, in a review of the "State of Trade" for the week, wrote:

"There was some improvement in the market for dry goods, and the jobbing trade is active in filling out of town orders. The millers are still holding to their full capacity, but are largely sold ahead—some for fully a year and now business is not readily secured. Reports are uniform as to the excellent character of retail business, and collections verify the statements made by travelers."